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In This Update:

**Sewer Jacking and Boring
is Never Boring**

Project Construction Updates

Downtown - Kalamazoo and
Seymour Streets

Michigan Avenue "Streetscape"

023 - Michigan Avenue

020 - Shiawassee/Pennsylvania
Streets

013 Northwest - Turner/Carrier
Streets

018 Southeast - Porter
and Ballard Streets

CSO - 013 West - Gier
Neighborhood

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Sewer Jacking and Boring Is Never Boring

In contrast to the typical "open-cut" trench method for installing sanitary sewer mains, the sewer separation construction on the Kalamazoo Street project uses an innovative alternative: the "Jack and Bore" Method. Jacking and Boring is used when a deep sewer installation is necessary and/or when there are many underground utilities involved.

For this method, a large rectangular pit is dug in the roadway, and the jack and bore equipment is lowered into the pit. The equipment consists of a large hydraulic jack set on rails, utilizing the back of the pit as a back stop for the jacking. An auger the size of the inside of the casing pipe is used to bore out the soil as the casing pipe is pushed forward. The sanitary sewer is then pushed into place inside the casing pipe. The final step allows a flowable-fill (concrete-like material) to fill the casing around the sewer. This holds the sewer at the proper slope and alignment.

Jacking and Boring allows for installing a relatively deep sewer pipe with less surface disruption. Service connections for properties are connected to the pipe using a standard open-cut excavation. The photograph at left is of the jacking pit located in the Kalamazoo Street/Washington Avenue intersection.

Project Construction Updates

Downtown / Kalamazoo and Seymour Project

CSO work has begun the underground boring and jacking process that allows the installation of the casing that will contain the sanitary sewer mains in Kalamazoo Street (see the above story). This initial jacking and boring



*Boring pit at Washington and
Kalamazoo*

effort is for construction of the segment of sewer from the Washington Avenue/Kalamazoo Street intersection west to Capitol Avenue.

In addition to the jacking and boring efforts, installation of a sanitary sewer in the segment of Kalamazoo Street between the Grand River Bridge and Grand Avenue has continued. A new water main in these segments of Kalamazoo Street has been installed.

Work continues in the construction zone for The Lansing Board of Water & Light's steam duct replacement including the complete demolition of the old steam utility vault in the Grand Avenue/Kalamazoo Street intersection and removal of some of the old steam duct lines in Kalamazoo Street.

Work on Seymour Street is scheduled to begin in late June. Once construction is underway there, Seymour Street will be closed to through traffic from Shiawassee Street to Ottawa Street.

Access to all Washington Square and Kalamazoo Street businesses is being maintained throughout construction. **Please be sure to patronize all businesses in this corridor!**

Michigan Avenue "Streetscape"

The rain gardens continue to be constructed on the north side of the 600 and 700 block of East Michigan Avenue. There are at least two more weeks needed to finish this construction in these areas. Rain garden work is scheduled to start the week of June 11 on the north side of the 800 block of E. Michigan Avenue.

Brick work continues in front of Oldsmobile Park, however, it should be completed this week. The bricks disturbed by construction should be replaced within the week. The Larch Street / Michigan Avenue ramps have been installed, while construction continues at the Cedar Street/Michigan Avenue ramp.

Water main construction in Michigan Avenue between Washington Avenue and Capitol Avenue is complete. The storm sewers just west of the intersection at Washington Avenue have been installed. Sanitary sewer work in the same location will be performed within the next two weeks. Work has begun on the sidewalk on the north side of Michigan Avenue, and pedestrian access is being maintained.



Boring pit construction



Rain garden construction at 600 block of Michigan Ave.



Access to all downtown and Michigan Avenue businesses is being maintained throughout construction, so please patronize all businesses in this corridor!

Two-way traffic on Michigan Avenue is being maintained during streetscape construction, except between Grand Avenue and Capitol Avenue, where Michigan Avenue is closed to through traffic. **Access to local businesses is being maintained in these sections.** Traffic on Washington Avenue is being maintained at the Michigan Avenue intersection.

Under a separate contract, the Lansing Board of Water & Light is replacing the steam line located mid-block in the 100 block of W. Michigan. The old steam vault has been removed. Access is being maintained to the alley to the south.

The bridge work at Museum Drive under Michigan Avenue will start Tuesday, May 29. Construction will last about six weeks and will correct a water inflow issue adjoining the Lansing Center. Michigan Avenue at the Museum Drive will be reduced to one lane westbound. The sidewalk in front of the Lansing Center will be closed. Pedestrians will be rerouted to the south side of Michigan Avenue at Cedar Street and at Grand Avenue. Pedestrians will still be able to access the Lansing Center from the east and from the west. Guide signs will be placed to assist people not familiar with the Lansing Center. Museum Drive will be closed on the bridge. When possible, Museum Drive will reopen to traffic, but for the most part, it will remain closed during construction.

Starting Tuesday, May 29, the sidewalk on the north side of Michigan Avenue between the Museum Drive Bridge and Cedar Street will be closed for streetscape construction.

Sewer construction will start in the 100 block of East Michigan Avenue starting Tuesday, May 29. Local access will be maintained.

023 - Michigan Avenue

Pennsylvania Avenue between Michigan Avenue and Eureka Street was paved to leveling course on May 21, 2007. Manhole castings are currently being raised. Final paving will not occur until late summer or fall. The lane closures and traffic shift on Pennsylvania Avenue will not be taken down, but has been shifted further north due to CSO 020 construction (see the following story).

Construction south of Michigan Avenue on Hill Street, Hosmer Street, and Eighth Street continues. In the 200 block of Hill Street, progress has been slow due to the challenges in directional drilling the new sanitary sewer laterals to the houses on the west side. A 100-year old undersized back lot sewer serviced these homes. The narrowness between the houses precluded

normal open trenching construction methods. When all the houses have been connected to the new sewer in Hill Street, the old sewer line will be abandoned. This new and improved sewer infrastructure should last for over 80 years!

In the 300 block of Hill Street, the sanitary sewer and water main have been installed. Road building should commence shortly.

The new curb and gutter and the topsoil are good indications that construction on Eighth Street and Hosmer Street south of Michigan Avenue is nearing completion. Some underground work and some road building activities do remain to be completed. Paving should occur late next week, but more likely early in the week of June 4.

The water main on Eureka Street between Eighth Street and Hosmer Street has been installed and tested. Work on sanitary sewer and storm sewer is to follow.

Prospect between Hill Street and Hosmer Street will have water main work installed later this summer. Work on Hill Street needs to be completed before this work can start. This will mean the intersection of Prospect Street and Hosmer Street will not get paved with the rest of Hosmer Street.

A sinkhole opened up at the railroad tracks on Michigan Avenue in the inner, eastbound travel lane. Necessary repairs are being made at the sinkhole location. Construction for this section of Michigan Avenue is still scheduled for late July/early August, depending on when the streetscape project switches over to the south side of Michigan Avenue.



Larch Street sanitary sewer construction

Larch Street is now down to one lane while the sanitary sewer is installed on the west side of the street. Construction should be completed in July.

“Dumpster Alley” (the alley between Allegan Street and Washtenaw, west of Washington Square) will be having new dumpster pads installed on the south end of the alley. Once the dumpster pads are installed, final paving can occur. The 17 dumpsters that once occupied the alley will be reduced to a more manageable number of 5. If you have not seen the alley since the concrete pavement has been placed, you should take a look. The improvement is remarkable!

020 - Shiawassee/Pennsylvania Streets

Construction has turned the corner from Shiawassee with work onto Pennsylvania, and, as expected, there have been traffic back-ups. Typically, construction does not commence in front of a school until summer recess, but the need to complete the Pennsylvania Avenue work before the start of school in the fall forced construction to start in May.

With the extension of the traffic control on Pennsylvania Avenue to north of Shiawassee Street, left turns from northbound Pennsylvania Avenue onto westbound Shiawassee Street are prohibited. This was necessary to limit traffic back-ups. The City's traffic engineers are monitoring this corridor and will be adjusting the traffic signal timing when possible.

It is hoped that this challenging traffic area will find a balance after motorists get used to the newly implemented traffic control. However, please allow extra time to get through the Pennsylvania Avenue construction corridor. Please be aware that school is still in session and that traffic will be more challenging at the beginning and end of the school day. In addition, please remember that emergency vehicles use the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor to access Sparrow Hospital and you are required by law to pull to the side and allow them to pass. If possible, select an alternate route.

Westbound traffic on Shiawassee Street between Pennsylvania and Larch is being maintained. Work is complete on the sanitary sewer in this section and has begun on the water main. They are also working on storm and sanitary sewer leads on the north side of the road. This causes westbound lane to shift out of the north lane into the south lane to avoid construction. Westbound traffic will be maintained at all times.

013 Northwest - Turner/Carrier Streets

Pavement removal on Turner Street and Carrier Street is complete. Both the raw water mains and the water service laterals have been installed in Turner Street with the associated pressure testing completed. In addition, the raw water mains and the water service laterals have been installed on Carrier Street from the west-side of the boulevard area to Felt Street. Raw and service water in the boulevard area may also be replaced (this is yet to be determined). Some raw and service water replacement work may take place in areas that were actually scheduled for the 2008 construction season. Work to install sanitary sewer will begin in early June.



This is YOUR newsletter!
Any comments or suggestions
are welcomed and encouraged!

018 Southeast - Porter and Ballard Streets

Installation of sanitary sewer on Porter Street, west of Ballard Street is ongoing, while connections for the residential sanitary sewer laterals on Case Street are nearing completion. Storm sewer work on both Case Street and Porter Street will follow during the week of May 28. Installation of the 15-inch water main on Ballard Street south to Oakland Avenue is commencing, while testing and chlorination of water main and residential water services on Case Street is largely completed.

Construction on this project will result in the closing of Oakland Avenue to through traffic between Clark Street and Ballard Street on May 29. This major westbound roadway is expected to remain closed to through traffic until mid-November. Westbound traffic on Oakland Avenue will be detoured northwest (right) onto Grand River Avenue and then south (left) onto Cedar Street to return to Oakland Avenue. Motorists may encounter delays and are advised to seek alternate routes whenever possible.

Construction on some streets associated with this project, including Cleveland Street, Farrand Street, Johnson Street, and May Street, may be moved up from the 2008 construction season to the 2007 season, if construction continues to progress as well as it has to date.

CSO-013 West Project - Gier Neighborhood

The installation of the water main and the 8-inch “piggy back” sanitary sewer in Filley Street from Taylor Street east to Turner Street is complete. Work to install the sanitary and storm sewer service “stubs” is also nearing completion. Sanitary sewer construction in Jackson Street, east of Creston Avenue, is complete. This sewer is currently being air tested prior to connection of the residential service leads. In addition, testing of the temporary water main in Jackson Street east of Turner Street has been completed. The overall project is progressing satisfactorily as per the approved schedule.

This is a significant legacy in infrastructure improvements and water quality protection we are giving future generations, and we should be proud!